

March 12, 2014

General Assembly
Appropriations Committee
Room 2700, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: S.R. No. 9 RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AND THE CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (CSEA-SEIU LOCAL 2001) and H.R. No. 5 RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AND THE CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (CSEA-SEIU LOCAL 2001).

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Carmen Antonetti and I care for my grandchildren in their home. I receive a subsidy for this care from the state and I am now glad to be part of a union and that the Office of Early Childhood is hearing our concerns.

Caring for young children is a tremendous responsibility. I am thankful that finally the state is beginning to recognize that it is a profession like others, and one of the most important ones at that.

I have wanted to take classes to advance my skills and this new union contract affords me the financial help I need to take CPR, First Aid, Behavioral Management and other early childhood classes. Currently I am exempt from having a license but in the future I hope to be able to get my license and help other children.

After years without an increase in the subsidy, (We are paid about \$2.23 an hour!) I feel now is the time to recognize our value to families at work. Please vote in favor of this agreement. Thank you so much for taking the time to read my letter.

Respectfully,

Carmen Antonetti
P.O. Box 295
Norwich, CT 06360
860-887-9906